

Simmons College Department of Education and Human Services
GEDUC 424 - 02: Educational Technology & Software
Summer, 2012
L-003

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Course Overview

Technology is a rapidly changing resource available to teachers throughout schools in varying degrees. It can be a wonderful addition to any classroom. Students today are growing up in a digital world and are exposed to technology at a very young age. The challenge for educators today is to engage these digital learners and prepare them for the 21st century.

In this course, we will discuss how technology is being used in American schools today and how it could be used more effectively. We will discuss when technology can improve student learning and when it is used for technology's sake. We will develop strategies to use when technology doesn't always work. In addition, we will have hands on experience with a wide range of technology to be better prepared to teach in the 21st century.

This course is designed to prepare students to integrate technology into their classroom to enhance their curriculum. Technology is a tool to teach with and can offer unlimited possibilities both in and out of the classroom. We will also discuss the dangers of technology in the classroom and how to prepare our students to be Internet savvy and be responsible Cyber Citizens.

Course Philosophy

As technology continues to change and develop, we as educators need to continue to educate ourselves on what is available. We need to determine what technology would enhance our teaching and how to integrate it to benefit our students.

Throughout this course, you will be asked to consider four basic questions about the technology that you use.

1. How was technology used?
2. Was it effective?
3. What were the teacher and student roles?
4. How might you use or adapt it for your current or future classroom setting?

Attendance Policy

Given that this is a seven day long class and a large amount of topics are covered each day, attendance as well as class participation is critical. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. In addition, all assignments handed in past the due date will be marked down unless other arrangements have been made.

Expectations for Course Participation

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes
- Arrive on time for class and after class breaks
- Turn in all assignments to me by Friday, August 3, 2012. Assignments can be turned in via email or you may drop it off at the education office.
- Complete assigned readings and discussion questions BEFORE each class
- Use a computer (and connection to the Internet) between class sessions
- Participate fully in all classroom discussions and activities
- Work cooperatively with class members to build a sense of collegiality
- Bring assigned readings to class when needed
- Bring a storage device to every class (CD, zip disk, flash drive, etc.)

Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to enable students to:

Feel comfortable and competent using technology

Become more aware of the rich resources available to teachers through the use of technology

Become familiar with:

Word processing for the creation of classroom materials

Multimedia presentation tools

Building a web page

Using digital images from cameras, the web and other sources

Explore various types of educational software

Design, create, and evaluate classroom lessons and units using technology

Explore the Internet and its potential as an educational resource

Become aware of issues surrounding ethics, privacy and safety when using technology

Spreadsheets and databases

Textbook

A separate packet of materials will be provided for the course; however, students wishing to further explore the topics can purchase a text from a range of books available online or in most bookstores.

Useful Magazines and Journals Related to Educational Technology

Learning and Leading with Technology (<http://www.iste.org>) – Click on L&L

Technology and Learning (<http://www.techlearning.com>)

Note: Technology and Learning is available in Beatley Library

Education Week (<http://edweek.com/>)

ESchool News (<http://www.eschoolnews.com/>)

We will be reading articles at some of the sites listed above. Please be prepared to register at various sites in order to access the archived articles.

Computer Equipment and Skills

Classes will be held in Room L-003, which has double platform computers. For productivity software, we will use Microsoft Office, Kidspiration and Inspiration. (All of these software packages are widely used in K-12 schools and have a Macintosh and a Windows version.) Skills learned with these tools should be transferable to other software.

Each of you comes to this course with varied levels of computer competencies. The course is designed to help you improve your skills from the level at which you enter. Each student will be expected to progress and develop from his/her own beginning point. The best way to learn new technology skills or further develop existing skills is a hands-on approach. You will be given a brief introduction to most of the “technologies of the day” and then will be given time to practice that technology in preparation for a completed assignment.

Course Rubric

Class Participation and Attendance	20 pts.	
Papers and Blogs	25 pts. (5pts. each)	
Web site Evaluations and Presentations	15 pts.	
Final Project	40 pts.	

Details

1. Class Attendance and Participation (20 %)

Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time (8:30 am). It is very important that you attend all classes. If an emergency arises, you need to call or email me. Students must arrange for an appropriate way to make up the missed work.

Students are expected to contribute to class discussions, engage enthusiastically and reflectively in computer activities, and assist peers when necessary.

2. Papers and Blogs (25%)

You will be asked to respond in writing to some of the articles, which we will be discussing throughout the course. There will be two 1 page Response Papers and three Blog responses, worth 5 points each.

3. Web site Evaluations and Presentations (15%)

We will be reviewing and evaluating a variety of websites and educational software programs, with the goal being for you to identify elements for use in your final projects. An evaluation form will be provided. You will complete 10 written reviews, worth 1 point each. In addition, you will be required to present one of the web sites to the class (worth 5 points).

4. Final Project (collaborative or individual) (40 %)

In a grade level and subject area of your choice, you will design a curriculum unit in which technology is a central component to meeting the goals of the unit. If you choose to work with a partner, the expectation is that you and one other person will work collaboratively on this project and will submit the final project as a joint effort with both persons receiving the same grade for the work.

Course Schedule

The following schedule provides a framework within which the course will be managed. It will change somewhat depending upon the pace, involvement, and interest of the class.

Daily Schedule:

10:00 – 10:30 Check-in, exploration of web sites, discussion of assigned technology article

10:30 – 11:30 Introduction of new technology with focus on ways in which technology can be used as a tool in your teaching

11:30 – 11:45 Break

11:45 – 12:30 Application of new technology to classroom environment (Student Practice)

Lunch Break

12:30-1:00

1:00 – 1:30 Check-in, exploration of web sites, discussion of assigned technology article

1:30 – 2:30 Introduction of new technology with focus on ways in which technology can be used as a tool in your teaching

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:30 Application of new technology to classroom environment (Student Practice)

Day 1 (Friday, July 6, 2012)

Introduction, Course Overview, Preparing students to be 21st Century Learners

We will review the major objectives of the course and engage in discussion about the course syllabus, expectations, and written assignments; assessment of student computer skills, begin discussion of impact of technology on learning. The Internet has become one of the most expansive tools at our disposal, but its use to assist in learning is sometimes overlooked. Introduction to basic terminology and using search engines for teachers and for students will be discussed. We will also explore criteria that can be used to assess the quality and reliability of websites.

Day 2 (Monday, July 9, 2012)

WebQuests and Online Resources

This class is a continuation of our first session and will focus on the different ways to use the Internet in your teaching. It will be the beginning of your planning for your final curriculum project. We will learn what a webquest is and review some exemplary ones and explore other types of online projects.

Word Processing

Microsoft Word has many features that can be used by students and by teachers to enhance lessons and presentations. We will review basic functions, learn advanced features and create brochures, posters and banners

Day 3 (Friday, July 13, 2012)

SMARTBoards

SMARTBoards are becoming more popular in classrooms and have become a valuable teaching tool. We will explore the basic functions of a SMARTBoard and how it can enhance curriculum.

Instructional Models, Lesson Planning Unit Design, Web 2.0

We will study instructional and curricular considerations for integrating technology in the classroom. These models will prepare you for designing your final project.

Day 4 (Monday, July 16, 2012)

Inspiration/Kidspiration

Inspiration and Kidspiration are wonderful programs that can be used by both the teacher and the student in creating organizational webs and outlines. They provide for both structure and creativity in the learning process

Creating a Basic Web Site

With the spread of technology into our everyday lives, teachers are finding class web sites as a powerful tool to communicate with both parents and students. We will explore some class web sites that are out there and explore creating one.

Day 5 (Friday, July 20, 2012)

PowerPoint

PowerPoint is a multimedia presentation tool that can help you create slides formatted with a variety of different elements. Students as well as teachers can use it; it is limited only by the users' creativity.

Digital Imaging, and Mobile Technology

Scanners and digital cameras are tools for assisting in creating materials that can make student learning more relevant because they can reach out to images found across the spectrum from books to nature to people. We will discuss uses of both scanners and digital cameras as educational tools. Mobile technology is becoming more and more prevalent in our schools. We will explore the various ways mobile technology is being used as a teaching tool.

Day 6 (Monday, July 23, 2012)

iPhoto, iMovie, and Photo Booth

iPhoto, iMovie, and Photo Booth are popular applications used both in and out of the classroom. We will explore ways to use these powerful tools to enhance curriculum.

Assistive Technology

We will explore the benefits of assistive technology and discuss how it is used both in and out of the classroom

Day 7 (Friday, July 27, 2012)

Spreadsheets and Databases

Spreadsheets have been used in a number of ways to both enhance learning in the classroom and to assist teachers in organizing their grades etc. The use of databases can also be a powerful tool for the collection of information and its presentation to enhance student learning.

Thinkfinity

We will explore the Thinkfinity.org website and consider the vast resources available to all educators. We will discuss learning objects and the various ways they can be embedded into our teaching.

Next Steps

Now that we have discussed various forms of educational technology and looked at the current trends, what are the next steps?